

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 10-11, and 14-16 have been amended and claims 17-20 have been canceled. On Monday, November 28, 2005, Applicant's undersigned attorney, Mark R. Hull, conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner, Stephen Gravini. The undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during that interview, during which the amendments presented herein were discussed. As discussed and agreed upon during the interview, the proposed amendments appear to place the application in a condition for allowance, conditioned on further consider of the amendments and the prior art by the Examiner. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments or requested changes, please telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at (216) 622-8419.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-2, 6-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dossaji et al. (USPN 5,961,698). Claim 1, as amended, indicates that air flow passing through the air dryer flows within a bore, external to a fastener that connects the air dryer to an external purge volume. Dossaji does not teach or suggest air flowing external to a fastener that connects the air dryer to an external purge volume, therefore, Dossaji does not anticipate independent claim 1 nor any of the claims that depend therefrom.

Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shamine et al. (USPN 5,607,500). Claims 10 and 11, as amended, recite a first fastener for connecting a desiccant cartridge to a manifold and a second fastener for connecting the manifold to a purge volume or reservoir, respectively. Shamine does not teach or suggest a first fastener and a second fastener as recited in Claims 10 and 11, therefore, Shamine does not anticipate independent claims 10 and 11 nor any of the claims that depend therefrom.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Blevins et al. (USPN 5,595,588). Claim 14, as amended, recites a first and a second fastener. The first fastener for coupling a desiccant cartridge to a manifold and a second fastener that is inserted through the manifold and tightened to a reservoir. Blevins does not teach or suggest a first fastener and a second fastener as recited in Claim 14, therefore, Blevins does not anticipate independent claim 14.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mahoney et al. (USPN 6,094,836). Claims 15 and 16, as amended, recite that a purge or air flow passes external to a fastener or a fastener means which secures an air dryer to a vehicle or air reservoir, respectively. Mahoney does not teach or suggest a purge or air flow passing external to such a fastener or fastener means as recited in Claims 15 and 16, therefore, Mahoney does not anticipate independent claims 15-16.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zoglman. Claim 21, as amended, reads, in part: “an *enclosed* reservoir, wherein said air dryer is coupled to *the outside* of said reservoir” Zoglman discloses coupling an air dryer to an open-ended shell (16), not the outside of an enclosed reservoir. Therefore, Zoglman does not teach or suggest every element of independent claim 21 and the Office Action does not cite a reference which cures the deficient teachings of Zoglman.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that all of the claims in this case are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Dec. 3, 2005

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